

## 2022 Spring Quarter

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Over the years, SER has had the privilege of participating in many projects whose results impact decisions made in the Bridge-Seton Watershed. Rarely do these projects get the attention they deserve, nor do the people that participate get appropriate recognition.

Therefore, it would be negligent of us not to mention the attention received for the work done since the Big Bar Landslide in 2019. Over the last three years, SER has worked in this project, with other First Nations partners, the BC Government and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The hard work, dedication, and success to date of this project cannot be measured, except in the most important way. That way is the size and success of future salmon runs, because of this work.

The January/February 2022 edition of Canadian Geographic shows the extent of this project, and what it has taken to ensure that the salmon are given a chance at survival, and protecting the Indigenous culture, history, and traditions at the same time. The name of the article is “Insurmountable”. Check it out if you get a chance!



## Message from the CEO

Gratitude. One of the most powerful words in the English language. Gratitude allows us to lean into kindness, appreciation, and thankfulness.

I am a firm believer that every circumstance has a silver lining. All of us, in our personal and work lives, have had struggles, challenges and successes. Sometimes the silver lining presents itself immediately, sometimes it's years later before we see it (that "AHA! Now I get it!" moment).

As we begin the 2022 season here at SER, we are grateful for each other, the work we do, and its impact. It hasn't always been easy, and there have been significant struggles. But we have learned A LOT and are taking these lessons into the future. The light at the end of the tunnel is NOT a train, it is sunshine and a beach!

As we continue our journey forward, we are grateful for each of you. We appreciate your openness, your commitment, and your passion for the work you do. We appreciate working with you for the betterment of the St'át'imc Nation and look forward to making this the best year yet!

## CAMERA TRAPPING

11 cameras were deployed throughout the Lower St'át'imc Territory with assistance from Xa'xtsa technicians. This year 2 more cameras will be added and the SD cards and batteries will be changed to continue monitoring for wolverine presence. The images collected will be analyzed by SER and Xa'xtsa techs and uploaded to an international database which will inform communities and other decision makers about animal usage of the surrounding areas.

## BRGMON 3

Mon-3 Steelhead angling in the Fraser River and habitat assessments on the LBR have begun. Skilled SER anglers are catching and tagging migrating Steelhead to track their journey up the LBR. This program provides important information on the population and migration timing. In total, we hope to tag 25 fish to track as they continue their journey.





### WUP/MOD:

Several WUP and MOD monitoring projects are in the final year of data collection for the current contract. As well, eight annual project reports from 2019 and 2020 have been finalized, 6 of which will be available to send to the comptroller this year. We are proud to contribute to improving the understanding of the Fish, Wildlife, and Vegetation in the Bridge River Watershed and aid in the development of improved flow regimes.

### ARCHEOLOGY IN THE SOUTHERN ST'AT'IMC

SER is working with the Nature Conservancy of Canada at N'Quatqua's request to undertake an archeological assessment of land in N'Quatqua Territory. So far, an archeological desktop assessment has been completed and we are awaiting direction from the community on how they would like to proceed.

### BENTHOS Feasibility in the Lower Bridge River

We have recently confirmed the work order for the research-based Benthos Mitigation Proposal. This proposal is in response to the decline macroinvertebrates in the Lower Bridge River following the high flow modified operation. The study is a desktop research and modelling exercise undertaken by Field Biologist Kyle Krahn who is

collaborating with two senior biologists. This will be in preparation for presenting an options matrix to the JPF followed by a formal report which will detail a monitoring program and specific cost estimates for the option selected by the Joint Planning Forum. "Benthos was supposed to be my number one priority upon return to work, however with the significant personnel gaps in the office, it has taken a back seat to keeping all other projects running smoothly.

### Welcome back

After the Winter holiday, projects are starting to get going again. Technicians from last year are eager to get into the field despite the cold frost-bitten weather and begin accumulating data and tagging fish to learn how we can better protect the fish and wildlife species throughout the St'at'imc.



Sometimes proclaimed "Fish Doctors" by those lucky enough to see them in their element, SER's skilled Technicians are so much more. These individuals have diverse knowledge and experience saving fish and monitoring wildlife throughout the St'at'imc and enjoy sharing their hard-earned knowledge. We are fortunate to have people so passionate for their work on our team!

## We're Hiring

As stated beforehand, SER is going through many changes. As we enter the busy season, we are currently looking to fill technician positions. Please visit our website for additional information.

[Job Opportunities - Field Technician and Laborer Opportunities](#)



## WHAT'S NEW

SER is in the process of computerizing many of its processes. Some of the enhancements include the

creation of electronic timesheets for our technicians. This development will assist with accurate billing for both the technicians as well as the projects they are assigned to. Another improvement is computerizing the daily schedules. Accessible to all technicians, they will receive alerts of any changes occurring that might affect them all the while ensuring that nothing is missed. It will also provide an exact location of all field workers should they need to be reached by other members or in the case of any emergency.

A group was created in SharePoint tailored to the needs of the technicians. The intent of this new effort is to give them direct access to their timesheets and provide them with the accessibility to various supporting documents such as schedules outlining daily specifics, alerts, safety requirements, forms, leave requests, changes to their personal information, etc.

A computerized environment offers several key advantages for SER, resulting in a more accurate, efficient and organized method of document management. As well, environmentally speaking, it can also have business benefits, as it builds a positive image for our economic resources.

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